

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02517 271624Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 /092 W
-----005413 271846Z /46

R 271552Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5165
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2517

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, AL
SUBJECT: HOXHA LAUDS GREECE

1. ACCORDING TO AN ALBANIAN NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH REPORTED
HERE IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETING AND
THE GREEK PRESS, ALBANIAN LEADER ENVER HOXHA HAD UNUSUALLY
KIND WORDS FOR GREECE IN A RECENT SPEECH. AFTER REFERRING
TO THE BLOOD BOTH GREECE AND ALBANIA HAVE SHED IN THE PAST
AGAINST "COMMON FOES", HOXHA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ALBANIA
RECIPROCATED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HOXHA ALSO
STATED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE HAD ALWAYS SHOWN
PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT,
THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE WERE NEIGHBORS AND KNEW THAT NO HARM
COULD COME TO GREECE FROM ALBANIA.

2. HOXHA, WHO WAS SPEAKING IN AN AREA INHABITED BY
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02517 271624Z

ETHNIC GREEKS, ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED THE GREEK
COMMUNITY IN ALBANIA SHOULD BE ASSISTED, ITS SCHOOLS
AND LANGUAGE MAINTAINED, AND ITS CUSTOMS PRESERVED,
REFERRING TO THE LATTER AS "AN IMPORTANT POPULAR
TREASURE."

3. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE REPORTED BEFORE, THE GOG

WELCOMES THE THAW IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, OVER THE YEARS, THE TREATMENT
OF THE GREEK MINORITY IN ALBANIA HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF
SERIOUS CONCERN FOR GREECE AND IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN
WORDS TO CONVINCE GREEKS THAT THE YEARS OF PERSECUTION,
AND WORSE, OF THE GREEK MINORITY IN ALBANIA HAVE NOW
COME TO AN END.

MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PEPR, GR, AL, (HOXHA, ENVER)
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